



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

January 18, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- Training has been completed for the southern and northern State Interagency Response Teams (SIRT). Participating in the graduation ceremonies were: Deputy Governor Matt Bettenhausen, Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Sam Nolen, Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Director Mike Chamness, OSFM Deputy Director Dan Williams, Chicago Hazmat Chief Gene Ryan, and Illinois Fire Services Institute (IFSI) Director Richard Jaehne. IFSI conducted the training in conjunction with the state agencies.
- The Illinois Terrorism Task Force plans to conduct 18 one day Homeland Security Planning Workshops and a State Homeland Security Planning Summit this spring. The workshops will be an extension of the informational workshops Governor George Ryan conducted last fall. The key consideration in putting together the participants for these workshops will be to include those individuals who have a critical role to play in planning for and responding to a terrorism event. Matt Weber of IFSI at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, can be contacted for further information.
- The following is the second in a series of practical tips offered by the U. S. State Department on how private citizens can contribute to the fight against terrorism by using their observation skills. This installment focuses on travelers:

Recent improvements in airport and airline security may prompt terrorists to become increasingly interested in targeting corporate or charter flights. Although private aircraft environments provide numerous protections against terrorists, travelers should remember the importance of exercising the same degree of vigilance in those settings as they do in commercial airline venues.

Terrorists know travelers have become increasingly sensitized to the dangers associated with the acceptance of packages or gifts from strangers. This increased awareness may now cause terrorists to cultivate contacts days or

weeks prior to asking a traveler to carry packages or luggage on board. Extreme caution should be exercised by anyone who is asked by a new or casual acquaintance to carry a package or luggage on board a flight.

Terrorists are knowledgeable that although passengers are regularly advised to retain control of their carry-on luggage and personal belongings at all times, not everyone heeds these warnings. If for any reason a traveler leaves his/her bags unattended prior to boarding, it is critically essential those bags be thoroughly examined by the traveler or a security officer. Never board an aircraft with carry-on luggage or packages which have not been completely searched.

The observation of any suspicious activities or individuals in an airport or airline parking area should be reported immediately to a uniformed police officer at the scene or an airport security guard.

- Governor George H. Ryan announced last month that the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is accepting nominations for the Young American Medals Program, which recognizes the outstanding contributions of young men and women 18 years old or younger. Nominations for this award, which was established by an Act of Congress in 1950, are being accepted for calendar years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

There are two categories of the award: bravery and service: the Young American Medal for Bravery recognizes individuals who exhibit exceptional courage, extraordinary decision-making, presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of their own personal safety, in an effort to save a person whose life was in actual imminent danger, and the Young American Medal for Service which recognizes individuals who have achieved outstanding or unusual recognition for character and service. A list of finalists will be forwarded to Governor Ryan for his review and forwarding of nominations to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in mid-February. Individuals or groups who are interested in nominating an individual can submit materials via mail. For more information and nomination forms, visit the DOJ website at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/obms/young.htm. Nominations must be submitted by January 31, 2002, and mailed to: Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Attention: Young American Medals Program, 623 East Adams, Floor 1, Springfield, IL 62794.

- For more than two years now, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has partnered with IEMA and ILETSB to offer a program called the State Instructor Program in which fire and other public sector educators can attend free instructor training and utilize a grant-sponsored curriculum for hazardous materials and terrorism emergency response. The program benefits public sector employees by providing a means of receiving training at little to no cost to participants. IFSI has worked hard to minimize costs. One such effort was to form a cooperative relationship with the IFSI library system to allow instructional material to travel to and from the instructors at no cost through their local library. The last few weeks have been the most successful for delivery of the program. Larger numbers of responders have been trained to respond at the awareness level to hazardous materials emergencies and acts of terrorism.
- On January 8, the Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) conducted a satellite uplink for local emergency management agencies to discuss various statewide terrorism preparedness activities and distribution of funding from the Department of Justice Domestic Preparedness grant. Illinois Department of Public Health staff assisted the Director during the question/answer session following his presentation. Several questions were asked regarding the local role with the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile
- On January 14-15, senior staff of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) participated in a strategic planning session to review internal bioterrorism preparedness activities conducted to date and to identify future planning needs of the public health community.
- As of January 14, the IDPH Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,562 samples. All have been found negative for anthrax. All backlog samples have been processed.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Aviation Safety Bureau sponsored a pilot safety seminar on Saturday, January 12, 2002 in Springfield, Illinois. Flight restrictions and security were discussed with more than 250 pilots from around the state in attendance.
- The IDOT Division of Aeronautics continues to make inspections at randomly selected airports.

Airport managers are being reminded to be vigilant as to suspicious personnel and/or operations.

- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is preparing to distribute radiation detection sets to first responder organizations in various areas of the state. The majority of the instruments will replace units already assigned to agencies under the program formerly managed by IEMA. Additional sets will be provided to local responder agencies that have requested them following the Homeland Security Workshop Seminars conducted in October and November. As part of the distribution program, IDNS staff will provide training on instrument use and maintenance. The instruments currently in the field will be retrieved, re-calibrated, and returned to the field on a rotating schedule.
- Work continues on the upcoming training drills and exercises over the next few months. The IDNS and IEMA are coordinating scheduling for the evaluated nuclear plant exercise with the LaSalle station in March under the radiological emergency preparedness program.